# Field/Trip Report

**Name/s of reporter/s:** Aberra Adie

**Name/s of traveler/s**: Aberra Adie

**Dates and place of travel: 25 – 28 June 2014 to Basona Worana (DebreBrehan)**

**Purpose/objective of the travel:**

* To coordinate planting of ILRI-led Africa RISING trials at farmers’ fields in Gudo Beret Kebele

**Key people contacted (contact details):** Ato Temesgen Alene (Africa RISING site coordinator), Ato Dereje, CIMMYT – Addis, farmers at Gudo Beret kebele who plant Faba bean-forage trial and Ato Melkamu (DA).

**Discussion/observation/insights:**

I traveled to DebreBehan on June 25th with two more experts (Ato Hailu Regassa and Ato Aklilu Alemu) who have been hired casually to assist in the planting process so that we could be able to complete the planting within the due local dates of planting. Unfortunately, it was not possible to carry out the planting due to religious holidays which are observed by the local community. However, this gave us time to visit and crosscheck the suitability of the selected farms’ plots and put layouts for the faba bean/forage trials. Temesgen already did layout for 10 farms for this trial and we did for the remaining 11 farms. Few farmers initially registered for the trial were found to have already planted their plots with other crops. When asked for the reason, they said that we (the researchers) are late and so they didn’t want to wait. Some of the selected farms’ plots are a bit marginal and far (30-45 minutes) walking distance from the road access and the landscape is not suitable for walking (may not be a big problem for field staff though, but for visitors).

Farmers registered for Irrigated forage development have been contacted at Gudo Beret Zuria and Mush villages and were told to be prepared for the planting to occur next week (July 2 and 3, the only work days in the week due to religious holidays).

Ato Hailu Regassa has been assigned to carry out the planting of the faba bean/forage trial and Ato Tamiru (Debre Brehan Research Center) has been assigned to handle the irrigated forage trial planting at Gudo Beret kebele. Planting calendar for Goshe Bado Kebele (the 2nd Kebele for Africa RISING) comes late. Temesgen will notify us with the calendar and inform us of any assistance from Addis.

**A way forward/ recommendations/suggestions (if any):** Key suggestions that came out from the discussion include the following:

* Plan planting of the trials at Goshe Bado kebele – Temesgen to follow up and inform the dates
* Preparations for baseline data collection
* FGD with project farmers of irrigated fodder about possibilities of linking forage production to livestock commodities and markets
* Focal persons from DebreBrhan Research Center to be identified to follow up the experiments and data collections

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| **Case story:** *Was there anything that struck you as really interesting during the trip? If so, you are encouraged to briefly describe it here (with pictures if possible) so that we can share these insights with the rest of the Africa RISING team and beyond.*  Understanding the local culture and situations is very important when planning and executing project activities. In Basona Worana, at times, there are only two possible working days in a week and the rest are all religious holidays. A researcher who plans activities in the area should be aware of such cultures and get prepared to abide to the local norms.  Competition for time of site coordinators and local experts during planting is obviously seen as an issue as planting season is same for both the research and the extension crops. Local researchers however made great effort to treat both the extension and the Africa RISING experiments as important and devoted their extra time to ensure timely plantings. It is both challenging and interesting time for the site coordinators when their real skill of facilitation/coordination is demonstrated and I testify that they can do it effectively. |